

Serial No. 09/055,973

The Office Action has indicated that claim 8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 is already in independent form. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 8 is allowable without additional amendment.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Mahany et al. (USP 5,483,676). Applicants have canceled this claim and thus the rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claim is in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

If applicants have not accounted for any fees required by this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the missing fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If applicants have not accounted for a required extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, that extension is requested and the corresponding fee should be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

11/2/99  
Date

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